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Minutes 06/05/2007

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
 COMMITTEE JUNE 5, 2007 MEETING
 Town Hall Annex, First Floor

SPY POND

In attendance: Frances Cameron, Francis Callahan, Bill Eykamp, Jacob Friis, Joey Glushko, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Bob Noyes, Steve Ricci, Stroker Rogovin, Dick Terry; guest David Cudmore. Facilitator: Jacob Friis
 Minutes: Elizabeth Karpati

Next meeting: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 15, 2007, Town Hall Annex, First Floor. Joint meeting with Standing Committee to plan for Spy Pond Splash and Town Day.

Trails Day, May 13, 2007: The last phase of this three-year project was a success, with good weather. We now have 9 sets of steps, plus a bench of full-length curbstones installed on the slope (quite an engineering feat), and two birdhouses. But the invasive plants are growing back at a furious pace. Jacob proposed an ongoing project for clearing invasives. We have blanket permission for this from the Con Com.

Waterbodies fund: Several projects for different subwatersheds are being planned for this year. The Deputy Town Manager says the fund is supposed to get \$12,000 appropriated for next year.

Goose eggs: 79 were added during the last week in April. Two goslings have been seen this spring (as well as three cygnets).

Water quality sampling: MyRWA has a long-term program of sampling at 10 points every month (not including Spy Pond, which does not seem a particularly bad trouble spot). Testing each sample costs \$128 every month. Bill Eykamp will check how often sampling has to be done to get useful data (could it be less frequent than monthly?). It would take five years to establish a baseline of data.

Spy Pond Splash, Sept. 29: David Cudmore from Still River Outfitters, who has worked with the Arlington Recreation Dept. and has taught classes on Spy Pond, came to talk about supplying kayaks and canoes for the Splash. He could bring 10 craft for 2 ½ -3 hours for \$250, with life jackets. Rentals would be \$12 per hour for a one-person kayak, \$16 for a tandem; people would probably rent for half-hour periods. He could also do a demonstration, e.g. rescue skills. We would have to provide parking for his truck and trailer.

Other things for the Splash:

Eva Balazs and her jazz band. Her book "Spy Pond Stories" for sale. Kathy Modigliani's project for kids of building birch bark canoes (a success last year at the reopening of Spy Pond Park). Bob Noyes can bring his boat and take people for rides (they would have to sign a release).

The Splash will follow the Family Day events at Hornblower Field, so both can be publicized together (need coordination), in the Arlington Advocate and at Town Day. Food may be available at the Family Day (this needs to be checked).

We need to arrange staffing for the Splash as well as for our Town Day table.

Another item for the August meeting: Possible speakers for a fall speaker series – for the three environmental committees together?